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In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of the listed document is also enclosed.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since a first Official Action on the merits of the subject application has not yet been issued, neither a certificate, petition nor payment of a fee is believed to be required for this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the

Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Michael E. Kondoudis
Registration No. 42,758

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MEK/tmc

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY DOCKET NO.
03500.015888

APPLICATION NO.
09/978,214

APPLICANT
Tadashi YAMAKAWA, et al.

Date Submitted to PTO: **January 17, 2002**

FILING DATE
October 17, 2001

GROUP
2131

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
OTPE JAN 17 2002 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE	5,960,177	09/28/1999	Tanno	395	200.59	

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JAN 24 2002

Technology Center 2100

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.
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Sheet 1 of 1